

101625Z May 01

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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	USNW-00	DINT-00	DODE-00
	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00
	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01
	NSAE-00	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00
	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/005W

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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8840
INFO NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
RWANDA COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 001572

SIPDIS

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR JENDAYI FRAZER
LONDON FOR CHARLES GURNEY
PARIS FOR BISA WILLIAMS
BRUSSELS FOR HINSON-JONES

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/10/11

TAGS: PREL PINR ZI RW CG

SUBJECT: RWANDAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO HARARE

REF: KIGALI 1856

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CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE D'AFFAIRES EARL M. IRVING FOR
REASONS: 1.5 (B) AND (D).

¶1. (C) THE ZIMBABWE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA, GODFREY MWEDZI, SPOKE TO POLOFF ON MAY 10 ABOUT RWANDAN PRESIDENT KAGAME'S ONE-DAY VISIT TO HARARE ON MAY 7. MWEDZI STATED THAT KAGAME'S LUNCH MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MUGABE WAS "EXCLUSIVELY BETWEEN THEM" AND DID NOT INCLUDE ANY MINISTERS OR OTHER GOZ OFFICIALS. ONLY ON ONE OCCASION DID KAGAME BRIEFLY MEET WITH ZIMBABWEAN MINISTERS. THE ZIMBABWEAN DIPLOMAT STATED THAT DEBRIEFINGS ON WHAT WAS DISCUSSED HAD NOT YET TRICKLED DOWN TO HIS LEVEL (WHICH IS JUST BELOW THAT OF PERMANENT SECRETARY). MWEDZI STATED THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL MEETING

SIPDIS
WAS CORDIAL, AND THEY SURELY DISCUSSED THE DRC, BUT IT WOULD BE "PURE SPECULATION" ON HIS PART TO OFFER ANY DETAILS OF THE DISCUSSION. MWEDZI TRIED TO DOWNPLAY THE SIGNIFICANCE OF KAGAME'S VISIT, STATING THAT ZIMBABWE AND RWANDA WERE NOT AT WAR, AND THEY CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS; RWANDA DID SO THROUGH ITS MISSION IN PRETORIA.

¶2. (C) COMMENT: DESPITE THE DIPLOMAT'S DOWNPLAYING, IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT KAGAME WOULD COME TO HARARE, HIS FIRST PUBLIC VISIT HERE SINCE THE WAR IN THE DRC BROKE OUT IN 1998 (KAGAME MADE A SURREPTITIOUS VISIT BROKERED BY SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT MBEKI IN 1999). WE CAN SURMISE THAT KAGAME SOUGHT TO BREAK SOME OF THE ICE THAT HAS FORMED IN THE RWANDAN-ZIMBABWEAN RELATIONSHIP, AND ALSO TO SHOW THAT HE CAN BE A REASONABLE STATESMAN WHO IS NOT INTERNATIONALLY ISOLATED. IN ADDITION, KAGAME

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UNDoubtedly wanted to ensure that Rwandan interests, such disarming the interahamwe in the DRC, are taken into account by Zimbabwe at this crucial juncture in the DRC peace process. Not to be outdone, the Ugandans sent a special envoy within 24 hours of Kagame's departure.
END COMMENT.

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